

TEIGNMOUTH URBAN & PORT
— SANITARY DISTRICTS. —

Annual Reports
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Sanitary Inspector

REPORT ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORY
— ACT —

Water Engineer's Report on the Water
Supply

Meteorological Observer's Report

1938

TEIGNMOUTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1938

Public Health Department

*Medical Officer of Health
and*

Port Medical Officer of Health :

F. S. L. PIGGOTT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Surveyor and Water Engineer :

E. GARDNER THORP, A.M.Inst.C.E.,
A.M.Inst.M.&Cy.E., M.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector :

*Meat and Food Inspector
and*

Inspector under the Petroleum & Explosives Acts :

N. S. TUCKER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres): Land 1589, Water 291. Total 1880.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid-1938) 9,750.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books:
3,186

Rateable Value: £95,367.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £377.

		Male	Female	Total
Live Births: —92.	{ Legitimate	43	40	83
	{ Illegitimate	5	4	9
	Total	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 44	<hr/> 92

Birth rate (per 1000 of the estimated resident population): 9.42

Still Births: 4.

Rate per 1000 (live and still) births: 41.6.

Deaths: Males, 62; Females, 69; Total, 131.

Death rate (per 1000 of the estimated resident population). 13.43.

Deaths from puerperal causes: Nil.

Death rate of infants under one year of age: —

All infants per 1000 live births: 32.6

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births: 36.14.

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births: Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages): 29 (Males 11, Females 18).

„ „ Measles (all ages): Nil.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages): Nil.

„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age): Nil.

General Provision of Health Services for the Urban District.

Hospitals.

The only Institution in the district under the control of the Local Authority is the Isolation Hospital Building at Bitton (within the Urban District). The Hospital was closed in 1933 owing to the prospect of Isolation Hospital accommodation throughout the County being reorganised by the County Council in the near future. The buildings have since been lying idle but are now being converted into an A.R.P. first-aid post. Arrangements are now in force for the reception and treatment of our infectious cases at the Torquay Borough Council's Isolation Hospital at Torquay.

Accommodation for any smallpox occurring in the urban district is provided by the County Council outside the district.

A Sanatorium at Bovey Tracey and a Tuberculosis Dispensary in Exeter are available for certain cases of tuberculosis occurring in the district. Both are under the control of the County Council.

There are no Institutions available for children or maternity cases under the Local Authority.

The County Council is also responsible for: —

(i). School Clinics;

(ii). Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre which is open every Friday afternoon from 2-30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. James' Parish Hall;

(iii). Treatment Centre for venereal diseases. A clinic has been available since December, 1917, in connection with the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, for the pathological examination of specimens and the treatment of patients. Treatment is available as follows: —

MEN.—On Mondays at 4 p.m. and Fridays at 7 p.m.

WOMEN.—On Fridays at 4 p.m.

There is no Institutional provision available for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children.

Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance (not under the control of the local authority) is available for non-infectious cases and accidents. Under the arrangements with the Torquay Borough Council, their ambulance is available for the removal of infectious cases.

Professional Nurses in the Home.

None is ordinarily provided by the Local Sanitary Authority. A nurse has been engaged in the past in the event of a severe epidemic of some infectious disease for which there is no accommodation in the Isolation Hospital (e.g. Measles).

Non-infectious work is ably carried out through the Local District Nursing Association.

Midwives.

There were five midwives practising in the urban district during 1938. None of these was either employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.

Nursing Homes to which Maternity Cases can be admitted.

Number three only. The County Council is the local Supervising Authority under the Midwives' Acts.

Public Health Officers

of the Local Sanitary Authority are as follows:—

One part-time Medical Officer of Health who acts in a two-fold capacity :—(i) M.O.H. to the Urban District; (ii) M.O.H. to the Port Sanitary District. Half his salary is contributed by the Ministry of Health.

One whole-time Sanitary Inspector who also acts as:—(i) Inspector of Shipping to the Port Sanitary Authority, and (ii) Inspector under the Petroleum and Explosive Acts. Half his salary is contributed by the Ministry of Health.

One whole-time Surveyor and Water Engineer who is the official responsible for the sewerage and water undertakings, scavenging, etc. A part of his salary is an Exchequer grant from the Road Fund.

Water Supply.

I am indebted to Mr. E. Gardner Thorp, A.M.Inst.C.E., Surveyor and Water Engineer, for the following details of the water supplied in the Urban District during the year ending December 31st, 1938.

TEIGNMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Particulars of Water Supply—Year Ending 31st December, 1938.

TEIGNMOUTH.—Low Level.

Total Consumption	66,065,000 gallons
Average Daily Consumption	181,000 gallons
Estimated Population Supplied	3,770
Hours of Supply, 1938: —	Continuous
Hours of Supply, 1937: —	Continuous
Rainfall 1938: —	30.72 inches
Rainfall 1937: —	44.00 inches

TEIGNMOUTH.—High Level.

Total Consumption	75,604,000 gallons
Average Daily Consumption	207,000 gallons
Estimated Population Supplied	4,810
Hours of Supply, 1938: —	Continuous
Hours of Supply, 1937: —	Continuous
Rainfall 1938: —	32.20 inches
Rainfall 1937: —	44.30 inches

SHALDON.

Total Consumption	22,265,000 gallons
Average Daily Consumption	61,000 gallons
Estimated Population Supplied	1,420
Hours of Supply, 1938: —	Continuous
Hours of Supply, 1937: —	Continuous
Rainfall 1938: —	33.51 inches
Rainfall 1937: —	43.76 inches

Drainage and Sewerage.

Consideration of a scheme for the reorganisation of the town's sewerage system has been occupying the attention of the Local Authority for several years past, as the existing means of disposal of sewage into the Teign estuary untreated, and (some of it) at all states of tide has been highly unsatisfactory. The project (laid before the Council by Mr. F. W. S. Stanton, M.Inst.C.E.) included the enlargement of the storage facilities for sewage both at Teignmouth and Shaldon, in order to reduce the period of time during which sewage is discharged, and also the construction of main intercepting sewers in Teignmouth and Shaldon for the more efficient conveyance of the sewage, and the prevention of flooding in times of storm.

The construction of the main sewer draining the western end of Teignmouth to the sewage tank at Gale's Hill has been completed and work is now in progress on (i) the reconstruction of the main sewage tank at Teignmouth and (ii) the outfall therefrom at the mouth of the river.

Scavenging.

House-to-house collection of domestic refuse is efficiently carried out by motor lorry. The refuse is dumped and buried on a tip obtained in 1927 behind the Gas Holders.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1938.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Smallpox	nil	nil	nil
Scarlet Fever	3	3	nil
Diphtheria	nil	nil	nil
Enteric Fever	nil	nil	nil
Puerperal Fever	1	nil	nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	nil	nil
Pneumonia	11	nil	3
Chickenpox	29	nil	nil
Erysipelas	3	nil	nil

Analysis of certain Infectious Diseases under Age Groups.

		Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	6 to 9 years	10 to 14 years	15 to 19 years	20 to 34 years	35 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65 or over	Total at all ages
Scarlet Fever						1	2							3
Pneumonia			1		1		3	2			1	2	1	11
Chickenpox				1		2	14	10	2					29
Erysipelas												1	2	3

A stock of Diphtheria Antitoxin is always available and is supplied gratis in necessitous cases. No laboratory work is done locally, but the Medical Department of the County Council will always supply to any medical practitioner on application the necessary outfit for the bacteriological or serological diagnosis of Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Typhoid Fever or Syphilis.

Vaccination.

I am indebted to Mr. W. J. Male for the following statistics relating to the vaccination of children whose birth was registered in the district during 1938: —

Total number of births registered	...	99
Successful vaccinations	... ..	34
Exemptions	... ..	56
Left district or not found	... ..	7
Died before vaccination	... ..	2

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1938.

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—34	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—64	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	...	...	3	1	Nil	Nil	3	4	Nil	Nil

TEIGNMOUTH

PORT SANITARY DISTRICT.

The Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the year, 1938.

Table A.

		Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be Defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
				By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector			
FOREIGN	Steamers	{ 76	14547	10	25	2	2	—
	* Motor ...							
	Sailing ...							
	Fishing ...							
Total Foreign ...		77	14810	10	25	2	2	—
COASTWISE	Steamers	{ 128	27786	4	46	2	2	—
	* Motor ...							
	Sailing ...							
	Fishing ...							
Total Coastwise ...		128	27786	4	46	2	2	—
Total Foreign and Coastwise ...		205	42596	14	71	4	4	—

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than Steamers.

Character of Trade of Port.

Passenger Traffic. Nil.

Cargo Traffic. The principal imports are building materials, coal, cattlecake, fruit (chiefly apples) and vegetables (mainly potatoes).

The main export is china clay.

Foreign Countries with which the Port mainly trades: — France, Holland, Germany and the Baltic.

Water Supply.

The Port itself and the Shipping therein derive their water supply from the Urban District sources. One water boat only is used, the sanitary condition of which is good.

Infectious Diseases.

All vessels, as far as possible, are inspected on arrival by the Medical Officer of Health and/or the Sanitary Inspector. Any cases of Infectious Disease that may occur can be dealt with under the arrangements made with the Torquay Borough Isolation Hospital for dealing with local cases of disease. With the exception of one case of pulmonary tuberculosis in 1922, no case of infectious disease has been notified in the Port Sanitary District for the past 17 years.

Measures against Rodents.

No complaints as to rats have been received from vessels entering the Port, and no rats have been killed by the Port Sanitary Authority either on board or ashore.

Food Inspection.

(i) No action has had to be taken during the year under the Public Health (Imported Foods) Regulations 1925, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations 1926, or the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations 1927.

(ii) No samples of food have had to be taken for either analytical or bacteriological examinations.

(iii) **Shell-fish Beds.** A certain amount of trade in mussels takes place locally: a portion of 'Salty'—an area of estuary bed uncovered at low tide—is set aside for cleansing purposes, but as a by-no-means negligible amount of untreated sewage passes into the Teign estuary at all stages of the tide, this cannot be looked upon as a satisfactory arrangement.

F. STANLEY PIGGOTT, M.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Teignmouth.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report upon the sanitary progress made during the year ended 31st December, 1938.

Much time during the year has been taken up by Air Raid Precautions work. Training classes in personal protection against gas have been organised, and also during the winter a Class was formed for First Aid Volunteers and training given, with the assistance of the local St. John Ambulance Detachment, in First Aid. As a result, 20 volunteers passed the Examination and form a nucleus, with other organisations, for First Aid A.R.P. work. In this connection I should like to record my appreciation of the invaluable assistance given by the Officers and men of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, in the training of volunteers.

Inspections and Visits.

The number of inspections and visits made to various premises during the year under review was 2,987. This figure is made up as follows:—

Inspection of dwelling houses, investigation of nuisances, routine inspection of various premises, etc.	1,082
Visits to slaughter-houses, butchers' shops and premises where foods are prepared for sale ...	457
Inspections of factories and workshops ...	58
Inspections of dairies and cowsheds ...	198
Inspections under the Shops Act, 1934 ...	166
	1,961

In addition to the above figures, 1,026 visits have been made to inspect work in progress as a result of the service of notices, legal or informal, to supervise the abatement of nuisances and to test the drainage systems of new houses in course of erection.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

Included in the Medical Officer of Health's Report will be found a Table by the Surveyor and Water Engineer upon the particulars of water supply for the year, but in addition I was instructed by the Council to investigate and take samples of water from private supplies. It was found that approximately 47 premises in the area were not on the Town supply and a total of 61 samples were taken and examined by the County Bacteriologist for the detection of contamination. As a result several wells in the town area were informally condemned and a supply of town water taken into the houses, and in other cases filtration was resorted to to obtain a satisfactory supply. It was also found that a number of houses served by a public supply were at times being provided with water which was not considered to be of a sufficiently high degree of purity for a public supply and this source was abandoned.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The constructional work in connection with the new sewage disposal scheme, which is to pick up the various outfalls around the harbour and discharge the town's sewage into the River Teign on the outgoing tide from two points near the mouth of the river has been carried on during the year. The Bitton Brook Area sewage now flows to the Storage Tanks at Gales Hill and is there discharged temporarily. Work at the present time is in hand on the construction of additional storage tanks and the Teignmouth outfall sewer.

No extensive additions to the existing sewerage system of the District have been found necessary during the year, as most of the new houses built have been adjoining existing roads which are already sewered or have been erected on estates in which roads and sewers have previously been provided. Maintenance repairs have been executed to the Council's sewers as and when necessary.

House drainage has been dealt with as occasion arose and various systems have been tested on complaint or in connection with additions as the result of the provision of new w.c.'s, bathrooms, etc. A total number of 54 systems were found defective and leaking and in consequence 26 systems were completely relaid, whilst 28 were rendered sanitary and watertight on the execution of minor repairs.

Private house building again decreased during the year, only 25 houses having been completed during that period. This number compares unfavourably with the preceding year (1937) when 39 houses were erected and with 1936 when 41 were constructed.

The drainage systems of the 25 houses erected during the year have been inspected and tested prior to the certification of the houses as fit for human habitation. The points to which the Byelaws apply in regard to the trapping of waste pipes from baths, sinks, lavatory basins, etc., the discharge of geyser flues to the open air and the discharge of overflow pipes in conspicuous places have received attention.

Rivers and Streams.

The steps now in hand to prevent the pollution of the River Teign by sewage outfalls have already been mentioned. None of the smaller streams in the District are polluted.

Closet Accommodation.

Practically the whole of the District is served by water closets, connected either to sewers or cesspools. Earth closets are used only in one or two instances.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The figures as to the number of Inspections and Visits made by the Sanitary Inspector are given on the first page of this Report. Only three Statutory Notices were served, with satisfactory results, and 217 Informal Notices were given, of which 12 had not been complied with at the end of the year.

Shops and Offices.

Intensive efforts were made to complete the inspection of the shops in the District in accordance with the terms of the Shops Act, 1934. In several cases separate sanitary accommodation was required and has been provided.

Camping Sites.

Two sites only in the area were used for camping purposes during 1938. One was used by 'hikers' and tourists and the other by a local Boys' Club. A Licence in respect of the latter was issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. It is doubtful if the maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer exceeded 100.

Smoke Abatement.

There are only two factory chimneys in the District and there was no necessity to take any action with a view to the abatement of nuisance from smoke.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the District.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Six houses were disinfested owing to the presence of bugs. None of these were houses owned by the Council. Zaldecide and similar proprietary solutions were used, these preparations being sprayed in all cases. Inspection is usually made of the house occupied by intending tenants of Council houses, to ensure that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal.

Schools.

All schools in the Area have been inspected during the year. No defects were found.

Housing.

In view of the fact that the construction of storage tanks for the reception and retention of sewage is still in progress at Gales Hill, and that, although the Bitton Area sewage flows to this point instead of being discharged as previously, and causes additional difficulties in control, it has not been possible for the Council to proceed during

the year with the erection of the 50 houses proposed in 1935. Consequently, progress in dealing with houses scheduled under the Slum Clearance and Overcrowding Scheme has been slow, as no alternative accommodation can be offered to tenants of affected houses. However, action has been taken and at the end of the year out of the 39 houses affected by the Slum Clearance programme, 11 had been demolished, 10 had been rendered fit, 7 had been put out of use (and orders given for the demolition of five) whilst 11 still remained in occupation.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, a tabular statement of the work carried out under the Housing and Public Health Acts during the year 1938 is appended.

1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	138
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...					153
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932	...					—
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...					—
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...		—
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...					77

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	70
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a)—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	2
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—				
	(a) By owners	...	...	...	2
	(b) By L.A. in default of owners	...			—

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...			1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—				
	(a) By owners	...	...	...	1
	(b) By L.A. in default of owners	...			—

(c)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...		—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of:—				
	(a) Demolition Orders	...	...		—
	(b) Undertakings	...	...	...	5

(d)—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...			—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...			—

4.—Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding :—

(a)—(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	1
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b)—	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c)—(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	2
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	12

Of the 20 families scheduled as Overcrowded under the Overcrowding Survey of 1936, investigation has now proved that fourteen of the families have left the premises then occupied. Those who can be traced have been proved to have obtained larger accommodation. Five families still occupy the same premises but four of them are now not overcrowded. The remaining house has been demolished.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

The number of premises registered in connection with the production and sale of milk is 40, of which 17 are cowsheds and farms for the production of milk, and 23 retail premises. During the year 198 visits have been paid to these various premises and in several instances notices were required as to the cleansing of premises, utensils, animals, etc. No legal action was necessary and no person has been removed from the Register.

The County Council scheme for the regular bacteriological examination of samples of milk has been continued throughout the year and a total of 61 have been taken for examination for cleanliness. Twenty samples have also been examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

Of the 61 Cleanliness samples, 43 or approximately 70.5% passed the Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

It is gratifying to report that of the 20 samples examined for Tubercle Bacilli, none were Positive. Sixteen were reported Negative and 4 were inconclusive, the guinea pig being the subject of the test dying before the expiration of the allotted time. On post mortem no trace of Tuberculosis was found in any of them.

During the year 26 samples of milk have been taken by the Police for the detection of adulteration under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. All the samples were genuine. Other samples taken were two of fresh butter, one of lard and one of margarine. These also were genuine.

One producer in the District is still licenced to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk, and routine samples have shown no deviation from the standard.

Two producers are licenced by the County Council as "Accredited" producers. In these cases also, routine sampling is carried out.

Five retailers in the District have been licenced under the Milk (Special Designations) Order to sell designated milks, and three of them are also licenced for the bottling of designated milk on approved premises. Two of the Licences were in respect of "Tuberculin Tested" milk and three for "Accredited" Milk.

Meat and Other Foods.

The number of Slaughterhouses in the District remains the same as in previous years, i.e., four licenced and two registered. All are in frequent use. Few nuisances occurred in connection with their use and such as have been noted have been speedily abated on notice being given to the occupiers. Frequent visits are made to the slaughterhouses and butchers' shops to inspect food in preparation for and exposed for sale.

The numbers of animals killed and inspected, etc., is given in tabular form, as required by the Ministry of Health.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (approx). ...	270	65	200	1600	1000
Number inspected ...	130	40	80	624	433
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	7	4	—	25	6
Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	5.4%.	10.0%.	—	4.0 %.	1.4%.
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	2	—	—	9
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis ...	1.5%.	5.0%.	—	—	2.1%.

In addition to the above, condemnations were also made of Chilled Beef (Bonetaint, Bruising, etc.), Poultry (Unsound), Tinned Foods (Unsound), and Butter (Stale). All these articles were surrendered on request or voluntarily surrendered and in no case was it necessary to legally “seize” the affected food or have same condemned by a Justice.

The use of Humane Killers has been maintained and it has not been found necessary to institute legal proceedings to enforce compliance with the requirements of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, in this matter. The slaughtermen’s licences under this Act have been renewed as necessary.

Notification of the time and place of slaughtering food animals has been given throughout the year as required by the Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

No meat marking scheme is in force in the District.

Adulteration.

No action has been taken under the Foods and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, or the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927.

Chemical & Bacteriological Examination of Food.

No necessity has arisen during the year for the chemical examination of any foods. The bacteriological examination of milk is executed by the County Council Laboratory at Exeter.

Shellfish.

No samples of mussels have been examined during the year.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following is a copy of the Form required by the Secretary of State, which gives details of the supervision exercised over the Factories and Workshops in the District.

Table 1.

INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	15	2	—
Factories without mechanical power	43	4	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	10	—	—
Total ...	68	6	—

Table 2.

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences ...	3	3	—	—
Sanitary Con- veniences { insufficient ...	1	1	—	—
{ unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
{ not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Total ...	6	6	—	—

The Bakehouses have been periodically inspected and found to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

No cases of outwork being carried on in unwholesome premises have been found and consequently Table 3 has not been included.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.

Enquiries have been made during Factories Inspection regarding the materials used for the making of upholstery, but no necessity has arisen to take samples.

Conclusion.

I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the Council generally for the support and help given me in the execution of my duties.

I also thank the Medical Officer of Health and other Officials who at all times have afforded me their cordial co-operation and assistance.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN S. TUCKER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Summary of Work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during 1938.

					Number
Houses and Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	1,961
Total number of visits	...	...	...	...	1,026
Drain tests applied (Water)	...	...	...	...	105
„ „ „ (Smoke)	...	...	...	...	371
Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	26
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	28
Drains disconnected from sewer	...	...	...	...	16
Drains ventilated	...	...	...	...	18
Soil Pipes repaired, taken outside house, or new	...	...	...	...	18
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	47
Inspection Chambers constructed	...	...	...	...	67
Defective Traps replaced and new gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	85
Yards paved	...	...	...	...	22
Washdown pedestal pans fixed	...	...	...	...	84
Glazed Stoneware Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	21
New flushing apparatus provided or old repaired	...	...	...	...	32
Rooms and premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	52
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	11
Roofs repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	6
Additional Ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	9
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	35
Miscellaneous Nuisances abated (defective floors, walls, sash-cords, windows, stoves, washing boilers, etc., etc.)	...	...	...	...	103
Room disinfected, etc.	...	...	...	...	22
Notices issued, Preliminary	...	...	...	...	217
„ „ Statutory	...	...	...	...	3

In addition to the above, the drainage systems of 25 new houses have been tested and examined, prior to certification of the houses as fit for occupation.

TEIGNMOUTH METEOROLOGICAL REPORT

Year 1938

Every year has its extremes and abnormalities but few years can have equalled 1938 in their variety and extent. The period of very dry weather from the beginning of February to the middle of May would alone have been enough to make the year a remarkable one but added to this was the exceptional warmth of both March and November and the short spell of bitterly cold weather in the latter half of December. Among the more violent eccentricities were the severe gale at the beginning of June and the thunderstorm of tropical intensity which visited South Devon on August 4th. Another electrical phenomenon but one in quite a different category was the magnificent display of Aurora Borealis on the night of January 25th.

Rainfall.—The year was the driest since 1933 and the fourth driest in the past 30 years. The total of 28.91 inches was 87% of the normal and rain was measured on 159 days compared with the normal 173. The deficiency was due to the extreme dryness of February, March and April. Rainfall for these three months amounted to only 1.23 inches, the lowest total for three consecutive months in records extending back 67 years. No individual low record, however, was made for any of these months. June and September were both drier than the normal as also to a lesser extent were October and December. November with a rainfall 169% of the average was the wettest month. Other months with rainfall above the average were January, July and August, the latter on account of the heavy rainfall associated with the thunderstorm. The greatest rainfall in the 24 hours from 9 a.m. was 1.75 inches on November 25th.

Sunshine.—For the fourth year in succession sunshine was below the normal, the total being 1,623.6 hours compared with the normal 1,703.3. The sunniest month was June but relative to the normal April was the sunniest followed by March and June. All the remaining months had totals below the average. The sunniest periods were April 8th to 20th (average 10.5 hours per day) and June 13th to 21st (average 12.0 hours per day).

Temperature.—Mean Temperature was the highest in 33 years records with the exception of that extremely warm year 1921. This was due to the exceptional warmth of March and November and the absence of any prolonged cold spell. Both March and November were easily the warmest of their name on record and other mild months were January and October. July was the coolest month relative to

the normal, no July having been so cool since 1922, and May was also decidedly cool. Although December had a mean temperature 1.0 deg. below normal, for three weeks in the month temperatures were well above normal. This illustrates the severity of the cold spell which lasted only eight days. On the 20th temperature in the screen failed to rise above 29 deg. this being the lowest maximum recorded at the Den Station since records were started there in 1903. The minimum in the screen on the 20th was the lowest since February, 1929. The lowest grass minimum was 15 deg. on the 21st.

Summer gave no very warm days, the maximum temperature being 77 deg. on September 12th. The warmest nights were August 3rd and 4th, the minimum temperature being 64 deg.

Pressure and Winds.—Mean Air Pressure was the highest since 1921. The monthly mean of April was the highest on record for that month and both in February and March mean air pressure was considerably above normal. In no month did mean air pressure fall much below normal. The pressure of 30.760 inches on April 11th was the highest yet recorded in April, for high readings of the barometer seldom occur between March and October. Gales were most frequent in January, which month had eight, and there were eight in the last three months of the year. The only other months to have gales were February which had one and June with three. The Southerly gale of June 1st caused very rough seas which did considerable damage to beach properties. During the night the wind veered to West and maintained gale force.

As usual Westerly winds predominated, winds from Easterly points being mainly confined to February, April, the early parts of May and August and the latter half of December.

Thunderstorms. One of the most severe storms ever experienced at Teignmouth occurred during the morning of August 4th. From dawn until after mid-day it raged with little intermission and yielded 1.59 inches of rain. This amount was exceeded by three or four times in neighbouring towns. The only other storm of note was on the afternoon of August 1st.

Miscellaneous.—Fog was seldom experienced, occurring on only seven days throughout the year. Hail occurred on four days and snow or sleet on eight but the only fall of any note was on December 21st.

Monthly Weather Summary.

JANUARY.	Wet and stormy. Mild.
FEBRUARY.	Very dry.
MARCH.	Very dry. Mild and sunny.
APRIL.	Very dry. Sunny.
MAY.	Cool and cloudy.
JUNE.	Rather dry. Sunny.
JULY.	Cool and unsettled.
AUGUST.	Sultry and thundery.
SEPTEMBER.	Rather dry. First half rather warm.
OCTOBER.	First half very mild.
NOVEMBER.	Very mild. Second half very wet.
DECEMBER.	Very cold in fourth week, otherwise mild.

G. F. ROSSITER (Meteorologist).

The heaviest rainfalls (above 0.49") occurred on: —

January	14	.84 inches	November	12	.66 inches
May	26	.55 "	"	19	.88 "
July	6	1.22 "	"	25	1.75 "
"	14	.54 "	December	9	.51 "
August	3	.52 "	"	11	.66 "
"	4	1.07 "	"	13	.70 "
"	28	.81 "			

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS

NUMBER OF DAYS						
1938 Month		Gales	Snow or Sleet	Hail	Thun- der storms	Fog
January ...	8	0	0	0	0	1
February ...	1	5	1	0	0	0
March ...	0	0	0	0	0	1
April ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
May ...	0	0	1	0	0	0
June ...	3	0	0	1	0	0
July ...	0	0	0	1	1	1
August ...	0	0	0	5	2	2
September ...	0	0	0	0	1	1
October ...	3	0	0	0	0	0
November ...	2	0	0	1	1	1
December ...	3	3	2	0	0	0
Totals ...	20	8	4	8	7	7

[illegible]

